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Sumter named one of America's "Most Livable Cities"

July 3, 2012 – Of more than 200 municipal applicants, the City of Sumter is one of six cities to receive a City Livability Outstanding Achievement Award for cities under a 100,000 population from the United States Conference of Mayors.

The award was recently presented to Sumter Mayor Joe McElveen during the United States Conference of Mayors 80th Annual Meeting in Orlando, Fla.

In its 33rd year, the prestigious award recognizes mayoral leadership in developing and implementing programs that improve the quality of life in America's cities. The award recognizes the City for their work with Central Carolina Technical College and other regional partners to transform the vacant Western Auto Supply building on South Main Street into Central Carolina Technical College's Health Sciences Center.

As a joint project of the City of Sumter and Central Carolina Technical College, the Health Sciences Center transformed an abandoned retail building into a state-of-the-art educational facility that anchors the Downtown Sumter National Register Historic District. The Conference of Mayors and Award sponsor Waste Management, Inc. cited the Health Sciences Center's success in expanding educational and job training opportunities in a central and convenient location, in helping to address a regional shortage of medical professionals and in helping to revitalize historic downtown Sumter as reasons that Sumter's application stood out among the hundreds submitted.

They also cited collaboration on the project between the City, Central Carolina Technical College and regional, state and federal officials.

"The Health Sciences Center is a source of pride for the entire Sumter community and a benefit to the entire Sumter region," McElveen said. "This project was a win for our city on so many levels: increased opportunity for our citizens, better health care, revitalization of our downtown, elimination of an eyesore and more"

Central Carolina Technical College president Dr. Tim Hardee lauded the City of Sumter for its downtown revitalization efforts and is honored to be a part of the continued development of downtown Sumter.

"We are proud to play such a prominent role in the revitalization of downtown Sumter, and we appreciate the City and all of our partners in the project making it possible. It is wonderful to see hundreds of our students adding to the vibrancy of downtown throughout the week," he said.

The other Outstanding Achievement Award winners in the 'small city' category are West Palm Beach Fla.; West Hollywood, Ca.; Lake Oswego, Ore.; Napa, Ca., and Schaumburg, Ill.

Additional information about the 2012 United States Conference of Mayors Livability Awards is available at: <http://usmayors.org/citylivabilityawards/>.

More:

[Sumter recognized as one of America's most livable cities](#), *The Item* (07/08/12)